



# How to Stand in Salat (Prayer)

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[Note: Everything written here is from the Book:  
“Salatur Rasool (SW)” by Muhammad Asadullah Al-Ghalib.]

The musalli will have to fill up the front rows first [1].

Because the Angels used to stand before Allah in rows as such [2].

Rows to be made straight and to stand joining shoulder with shoulder and foot with foot.

The Prophet (sm) says, “straighten your rows. Because the straightening of rows is included in establishment of salat” [3].

Abu Mas‘ood Ansari (R) says, “at the beginning of salat, the Prophet (sm) used to touch our shoulders and make it close with one another and would say, ‘straighten your row, don’t stand dividedly, then your hearts will be divided’ [4].

Anas (R) says, “One among us used to join us shoulder with shoulder and foot with foot”. Nu‘man bin Basheer (R) says that, ‘then I see that one of us is joining shoulder with shoulder, foot with foot and ankle with ankle of the musallis’ [5].

On the basis of which Imam Bukhari (Rh) has composed the paragraph as ‘the paragraph on joining shoulder with shoulder and foot with foot in the row of salat’ [6].

Here joining leg means to place foot attached with foot and there should be no gap at all and the row should be straight. In another description of saheeh Bukhari the Prophet (sm) said, ‘Make straight your row and close together (your shoulder & foot) properly’ [7].

In a statement of Abu Daud the Prophet (sm) said, ‘Make similar between shoulders and omit the gap ... and don’t leave any gap for Satan’. ‘I see that the Satan would enter among you as black goat (كعبه بكعبه) [8]. Ibnu Hajar said that, at the end of the narration of Nu‘man bin Basheer (R) there comes the words (كعبه بكعبه) i.e. ankle with ankle, which indicates to touch the side of the foot, not the back side of it, which is assumed by someone [9].

Here the main things are two: to make the row straight and to close the gap. So it is better to join the feet side by side keeping the front parallel.

The musalli male and female will stand in their rows making natural gap between two legs, as the pair of shoes could be laid between two legs of own [10]. Don’t make gap between two legs more than the balance of the body. The female musalli do not stand on her ankles jointly. These are superstitions only. By neglecting stern order of the Prophet (sm) about joining shoulder, knee and ankles of each other, there is no virtue in making gap regularly in making row with a false plea. But there is only sin in it. So, it is our fore-most duty to set aside this void custom at once and to stand in the row of salat brotherly joining shoulder with shoulder and foot with foot without making any gap between two musallis. This is to note that, the musallis must refrain from making row between two pillars [11].

#### Reference:

- [1] Abu Daud, Mishkat H/1094, Para: 24, To straighten the rows.
- [2] Abu Daud H/661, Ch: 2, Salat, Para: 94.
- [3] Muttafaq ‘Alaih, Mishkat H/1087, Para: 24, To straighten the row.
- [4] Muttafaq ‘Alaih, Mishkat H/1088, Para: 24, To straighten the row.
- [5] Abu Daud H/662, Ch: 2, Salat, Para: 94.
- [6] Bukhari H/725, Ch: 10, the Azan, Para: 76.
- [7] Bukhari H/719, Ch: 10, the Azan, Para: 72; Do, Mishkat H/1086, Para: 24, To straighten the row; Mir’at 4/4.
- [8] Abu Daud H/666-67, Mishkat H/1102, 1093, Para:24, To straighten the row.
- [9] Abu Daud H/662; Bukhari H/725, Fathul Bari, Ch: 10, the Azan, Para: 76, Joining shoulder with shoulder and foot with foot in the row’. P. 2/247.
- [10] Abu Daud H/654-55, Ch: 2, salat, Para: 90.
- [11] Abu Daud H/673, Ch: 2, Salat, Para: 95.